METHODS AND APPARATUS TO SUPPORT ROUTING OF INFORMATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5   A first network node maintains separate routing policy information to forward network traffic depending on a direction of the network traffic. Upstream routing policy information at the first node identifies a second node to forward upstream traffic received from at least a first client communicating through the first node. Downstream routing

10   policy information at the first node identifies how to forward downstream network traffic received from another node to the first client. By preventing use of the downstream policy routing information by the first client to route upstream network traffic, the first node is able to forward traffic along a path that the network traffic otherwise would have not traveled. For example, network traffic communicated through the first node can be

15   forced to travel through another network node through which it would have not otherwise have passed if the downstream policy information was available to route the network traffic.